

# 2015 Michigan Motorcycle Laws Guide for Motorcycle Operators

**“Motorcycle”** means every motor vehicle having a saddle or seat for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a tractor. **MCL 257.31.**

**“Moped”** means a 2- or 3-wheeled vehicle to which is equipped with a motor that does not exceed 100 cubic centimeters piston displacement, cannot propel the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour, and its power drive system does not require the operator to shift gears. **MCL 257.32b.**

## Endorsements and Temporary Instruction Permits

**Operating with a Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP).** A person with a TIP may operate a motorcycle for 180 days and must:

- Carry the permit.
- Be under the constant visual supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator who is at least 18 years of age.
- Not operate the motorcycle at night.
- Not operate the motorcycle with a passenger.

A person shall not be eligible for more than two (2) TIPs in a 10-year period. **MCL 257.306(5).**

**Motorcycle Endorsement.** A person, before operating a motorcycle, other than an auticycle, upon a public street or highway, shall procure a motorcycle endorsement on his or her operator's or chauffeur's license. **MCL 257.312a(1).**

**3-Wheeled Motorcycle.** An endorsement issued to operate a 3-wheeled motorcycle is restricted to that operation and does not permit operation of a 2-wheeled motorcycle. **MCL 257.312b(3).**  
\*3-wheel License Restriction Code: 20

## Civil Infractions Specific to Motorcycles

**Parents or Guardians.** The parent or guardian of a minor shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child to violate the laws applicable to motorcycles. **MCL 257.656.**

**Helmet use; Motorcycle Operators** – A motorcycle operator is required to wear an approved crash helmet unless he or she:

- Is at least 21 years old,
  - Has at least \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits insurance in effect, and
  - Has held a motorcycle endorsement for at least two years, or has passed an approved motorcycle safety course.
- MCL 257.658(5).**

**Helmet use; Motorcycle Passengers** - A motorcycle passenger is required to wear an approved crash helmet unless he or she:

- Is at least 21 years old, and
- Has at least \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits insurance in effect in addition to the insurance that is required of the motorcycle operator. **MCL 257.658(5).**

**Helmet use; Moped** - A moped operator less than 19 years of age shall wear a crash helmet. **MCL 257.658(4).**

**Crash Helmet Standards** – When required, all helmets must meet the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) standards.  
**Mich. Admin. Code, R 28.951**

**Seats and Foot Rests.** A motorcycle shall be equipped with adequate seats and securely attached foot rests or pegs for each designated seating position. Unless unable to do so because of a permanent physical disability, a passenger shall not ride on a motorcycle unless his or her feet can rest on the foot rests or pegs. **MCL 257.658a(1).**

**Handlebars of Motorcycle.** A person shall not operate a motorcycle or moped equipped with handlebars that are higher than 15 inches from the lowest point of the undepressed saddle to the highest point of the handle grips. **MCL 257.661a.**

**Clearance/ Marker lamps and reflectors; color.**

- (a) Those mounted on the front or on the side near the front of a vehicle shall display or reflect an amber color.
- (b) Those mounted on the rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle shall display or reflect a red color.
- (c) All lighting devices and reflectors mounted on the rear of any vehicle shall display or reflect a red color, except the stop light or other signal device, which may be red or amber, and except that the light illuminating the license plate shall be white.

**MCL 257.689.**

**Rear stop lamps.** A motorcycle or moped shall be required to have 1 rear stop lamp. **MCL 257.697b.**

**Side, fender, running, courtesy, and backing lamps; Reflectors; Flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights; violation as civil infraction.** A lamp or a part designed to be a reflector, if visible from the front, shall display or reflect a white or amber light; if visible from either side, shall display or reflect an amber or red light; and if visible from the rear, shall display or reflect a red light, except as otherwise provided by law. **MCL 257.698(4).**

## Other Lighting and Equipment

<b>Registration (License) Plate.</b>	<b>MCL257.225.</b>
<b>Head lamps.</b>	<b>MCL257.685.</b>
<b>Spot lamps and fog lamps.</b>	<b>MCL257.696.</b>
<b>Brake equipment.</b>	<b>MCL257.705.</b>
<b>Horn or other warning device.</b>	<b>MCL257.706.</b>
<b>Muffler, engine, and exhaust system.</b>	<b>MCL257.707.</b>
<b>Noise limitations; prohibitions.</b>	<b>MCL257.707c.</b>
<b>Mirrors.</b>	<b>MCL257.708.</b>
<b>Windshields, goggles, glasses, or shields.</b>	<b>MCL257.708a.</b>
<b>Tires.</b>	<b>MCL257.710.</b>

## General “Rules of the Road”

<b>Limited Access Highways.</b>	<b>MCL 257.679a.</b>
<b>Fail to Yield Right-of-Way.</b>	<b>MCL 257.649.</b>
<b>Fail to Yield- Left at Intersection.</b>	<b>MCL 257.650.</b>
<b>Fail to Stop - Leaving Private Drive.</b>	<b>MCL 257.662.</b>
<b>Disobey Stop, Yield, or Merge Sign.</b>	<b>MCL 257.671.</b>
<b>Disobey Traffic Signal.</b>	<b>MCL 257.612.</b>
	<b>MCL 257.614.</b>
<b>Riding on Seat of Motorcycle.</b>	<b>MCL 257.658(1).</b>
<b>Multiple Riders.</b>	<b>MCL 257.658(2).</b>
<b>Carrying Packages.</b>	<b>MCL 257.661.</b>
<b>OWI.</b>	<b>MCL 257.625.</b>
<b>Reckless Driving.</b>	<b>MCL 257.626.</b>
<b>Drag Racing.</b>	<b>MCL 257.626a.</b>
<b>Careless Driving.</b>	<b>MCL 257.626b.</b>
<b>Speeding.</b>	<b>MCL 257.627.</b>
<b>Impeding Traffic.</b>	<b>MCL 257.676b.</b>

